

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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R 221006Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2728

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: SOKA GAKKAI PRESIDENT RULES OUT COOPERATION WITH JCP

REFS: A) TOKYO 10310; B) TOKYO 9770

SUMMARY: GAKKAI PRESIDENT IKEDA DELIVERED LENGTHY SPEECH AUGUST 20 IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED CO-EXISTENCE--AND RULED OUT COOPERATION--BETWEEN THE GAKKAI AND THE JCP. HE ALSO PROMISED CONTINUED GAKKAI SUPPORT OF THE CGP (KOMEITO--CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY). IKEDA APPARENTLY MISJUDGED GAKKAI RANK AND FILE AND CGP FEELINGS ON THE SUBJECT AND WAS FORCED TO CLARIFY THE MEANING OF HIS MEETING WITH JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO AND THE TEN-YEAR JCP-SOKA GAKKAI AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A WELL-PUBLICIZED SPEECH AUGUST 20, SOKA GAKKAI PRESIDENT DAISAKU IKEDA CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT SOKA GAKKAI WOULD PARTICIPATE IN "JOINT STRUGGLES" WITH THE JCP. THE JCP IN RECENT WEEKS HAS INDIRECTLY SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF SOKA GAKKAI JOINING A JCP-SPONSORED NATIONAL UNITY FRONT. IKEDA SAID HE AGREED TO MEET
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JCP CHAIRMAN MIYAMOTO ONLY AFTER REPEATED REQUESTS FROM THE LEFT-WING NOVELIST (AND SECRET JCP MEMBER) SEICHO MATSUMOTO, BUT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT MIYAMOTO DID NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GAKKAI WOULD JOIN POLITICAL FORCES WITH THE JCP. ALONG WITH CONSIDERABLE

DISCOURSE ON HIS PHILOSOPHY, IKEDA STATED THAT THE GAKKAI WOULD NOT ENTER A JCP-SPONSORED FRONT FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CGP.

3. COMMENT. HIS FIRST PERSONAL COMMENT ON THE JCP AGREEMENT INDICATES THAT IKEDA SERIOUSLY MISJUDGED THE EFFECT HIS MEETING WITH MIYAMOTO AND AGREEMENT WITH THE JCP WOULD HAVE ON THE RANK AND FILE GAKKAI/CGP SUPPORTERS. SOME OF THE MORE ARDENT FOLLOWERS ARE ABLE MERELY TO SCRATCH THEIR HEADS IN BEWILDERMENT AND ALLOW THAT THE GREAT LEADER MUST HAVE SOME HIGHER, UNFATHOMABLE PURPOSE. BUT THE APPEARANCE OF HIS TEAMING UP WITH THE JCP HAS OBVIOUSLY OFFENDED MANY STAUNCHLY ANTI-COMMUNIST FOLLOWERS AND IKEDA WAS FORCED HASTILY TO TAKE COVER IN HIS MORE TRADITIONAL MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POSTURE. DENIAL OF COOPERATION WITH JCP SHOULD MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR THE CGP LEADERSHIP AND ASSUAGE THE FEELINGS OF MANY FOLLOWERS, BUT THE ENTIRE EPISODE COULD TEND TO REDUCE IKEDA'S STATURE.

4. AS SOON AS IT WAS PREPARED A GAKKAI WORKER DELIVERED AN ENGLISH SUMMARY OF IKEDA'S SPEECH TO THE EMBASSY. IN A BRIEF INTERVIEW, HE PROFESSED FAITH IN THE WISDOM OF THE LEADER BUT CONFESSED THAT HE FAILED UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY IKEDA'S ACTIONS.

HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY ALLIANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO11790
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750291-0332
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750898/baaaafxh.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971006
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, JA, JCP, PINT, SOKA GAKKAI
To: STATE INFO SEOUL
TAIPEI
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006